

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: Located approximately 3.0 miles southeast of Susanville, the 500+ acre portion of the Hulsman Ranch Partnership straddles the Sierra Nevada and the Great Basin, and contains sensitive habitat, historical features, and important watersheds and habitat linkage. Contained within the 4,340-acre Bass Hill/Lassen Creek Conceptual Area ("CAPP"), the Hulsman Ranch is the first major connective piece of an important habitat corridor that links the Bass Hill Wildlife area to the Lassen National Forest. The 500+ acre portion of the Hulsman Ranch partnership is largely contained within the Lower Gold Run and Lassen Creek watersheds, and contains a major section of the ephemeral "Sand Slough" wetland, as well as a spring & small ephemeral pond utilized by several species of migratory birds.

The Conceptual Area contains biologically important private lands that support 11 habitat types, including eastside pine forest, mixed hardwood-conifer, wet meadow, montane riparian, and bitterbrush. These diverse habitats support a wide variety of wildlife and plant species, including the state-endangered bald eagle and willow flycatcher, state-threatened greater sand hill crane and bank swallow, and state threatened Sierra Nevada red fox. In total, 5 threatened and endangered species, 28 species of special concern, and 5 special plants occur within the Conceptual Area. In addition, the Conceptual Area is of particular importance to the Bass Hill Sub-herd of the Doyle deer herd, providing critical wintering habitat and protecting the migration corridor for the sub-herd. The Conceptual Area abuts the 5,516-acre CDFG Bass Hill Wildlife Area to the east, Lassen County & Lassen Land & Trails Trust (LLTT) land to the west, and the Lassen National Forest to the south, providing an important habitat linkage between these public lands.

Lassen Land and Trails Trust is requesting \$35,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to help facilitate the negotiation and legal review of a conservation easement on this property, as well as cover the costs of an easement appraisal, title work, and the creation of a baseline report and monitoring plan for the property. Since the property occurs within the Bass Hill/Lassen Creek "CAPP," it has been earmarked by the Wildlife Conservation Board for prioritized protection. As a result, WCB will help LLTT leverage the funds necessary to purchase a conservation easement on the property, estimated (by comparable easement sale within the "Capp") at roughly \$300,000+.